

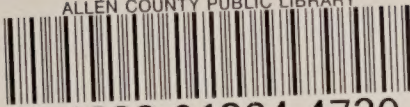
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History of the Rev. Johannes
Waldschmidt and his Swamp Church,
Lancaster County, Penn.

Further research on the Waldschmidt
Family by Katherine Russell Rain
water (Mrs. George Rainwater)

✓ Waldschmidt family.
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qW168r History of the Rev. Johannes Waldschmidt
and his Swamp Church, Lancaster County, Pa.:
further research on the Waldschmidt family.
Bloomington, Ind., 1959.
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Rec'd Apr. 14-1977



DILLENBURG, THE BIRTHPLACE OF REV. WALDSCHMIDT

Mrs. George Rainwater (Katherine Russell Rainwater) of Bloomingdale, Ind. gratefully acknowledges much assistance from the following:-

- To Mrs. Herbert H. Matthews of Findlay, O. for preliminary research on the Rev. John Waldschmidt and his son, Christian Waldschmidt, whose second wife, Polly Kern Custard was a great, great Aunt of Mrs. Matthews'.
- To Mr. Peter N. Gress, of Reinholds, Pa. for a copy of the Rev. Johannes Waldschmidt Memorial. Mr. Gress is a descendant of Rev. John Waldschmidt thru his son, John
- To Mrs. Velma Mosler of Columbia City, Ind. for her pictures concerning the home of Rev. Waldschmidt. She is a descendant of Rev. Waldschmidt thru his dau. Catherine Margaret Waldschmidt who married Abraham Hassler.

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Rev. John Waldschmidt - 1724-1786 for
Monument Erected by Swamp Reformed Church
Unveiled and Dedicated

Sunday, October 17, 1915. Rev. Martin W. Schweitzer, Minister.

Preface

After the regular devine worship held on Sunday, August 8, 1915, in Swamp Church, formerly "Little Cocalico," Lancaster county, Pa. the Rev. Martin W. Schweitzer, pastor, suggested that a monument be erected and unveiled in honor of the first pastor of said church (1752-1786), Rev. John Waldschmidt whose remains lie buried in the old grave-yard.

The suggestion was well taken, and it was decided to appoint a committee to arrange for a special historical dedicatory service to be held on Sunday October 17, 1915. This committee is also to arrange a program, solicit funds and extend invitations to all who are interested. This booklet is issued under the auspices of said committee, and is dedicated to all the descendants and friends who so heartily co-operated to make this event a success. A sincere welcome to all.

Rev. Martin W. Schweitzer, Chairman,
Mrs. Hattie Brunner, Member of Berks Co. Historical Society
David Gress, Lineal Descendant,
A. W. Eberly, Treas. of Committee,
Augustus K. Hartman, Tobias S. Ochs, Secretary, Committee.

John Waldschmidt was born at Dillenburg, in the county of Nassau, Germany, on August 6, 1724. His father was John Henry Waldschmidt, and his mother, Christina Appollonia, the daughter of the Rev. John Weller, pastor in the county of Wittgenstein. They were married on January 9, 1718, and had eight children, of whom John was the fifth. Young Waldschmidt pursued his studies first in the Latin school and later in the University at Herborn.

While Waldschmidt was studying at Herborn, events were taking place in Pennsylvania, which prepared the way for his coming. Michael Schlatter, a Swiss minister, was sent in 1746 by the Synods of North and South Holland to organize the Reformed congregations of Pennsylvania under the jurisdiction of the Church of Holland. This commission was carried out by Schlatter, and

on September 29, 1747, four ministers and twenty-eight elders, representing twenty congregations, met in Philadelphia and organized there the (Convention) or "Coetus" of the Reformed Churches of Pennsylvania".

During his journeys, made by Schlatter in the course of the next three years, he found that there were no less than 46 Reformed congregations in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland and Virginia, which were served by only four ordained ministers. As no progress was possible under these circumstances, unless more ministers were secured, Schlatter returned to Holland to interest the Church of Holland in sending more ministers to Pennsylvania.

In the spring of 1751 Schlatter appeared before the two Synods of Holland, which listened with great interest to his touching story regarding the needy condition of the Reformed people of Pennsylvania. His plea for six new ministers found a favorable hearing, and, in order to make the undertaking possible from a financial point of view, the Synods sent a petition to the States of Holland and West Friesland to grant an annual subvention for the work in Pennsylvania. This petition was granted in August 1751, the States of Holland and West Friesland voting the sum of 2,000 florins (or \$800) annually for a period of five years; and when this grant had expired, it was renewed at three successive occasions. It was this liberal grant of the Dutch government which made it possible for the Church of Holland to send missionaries to Pennsylvania.

Accordingly Schlatter was commissioned by the Synods to visit the chief Reformed Universities in Western Germany and Switzerland, in order to secure six young men for Pennsylvania. The Universities visited by him were Herborn, Heidelberg, Zurich and Basle. At first a number of men volunteered, but gradually they all withdrew, so that it seemed doubtful for awhile whether he would be able to succeed in his mission.

At last six young men were found in Herborn, with the co-operation of the faculty, who expressed their willingness to go to Pennsylvania. They were described by Schletter as follows in a letter which he sent from Herborn to Holland, on February 17, 1752, namely: (1) Mr. Otterbein, quiet and pious; (2) Mr. Waldschmidt, honest and sincere; (3) Mr. Hensepeter, resolute and seeking the good; (4) Mr. Stoy, intelligent and kind-hearted; (5) Mr. Frankenfild, taciturn and willing; (6) Mr. Wissler, greatly gifted and generous. At the last moment one of them, Hensepeter, withdrew, having yielded to the earnest entreaties of his mother to stay with her in Nassau. One of the professors of the University, Arnoldi, called these men "the flower of the young ministers in the county of Nassau." It was indeed a great sacrifice for the little church of Nassau to give up five of her best men for service in a distant land.

On February 29, 1752, Schlatter started with the five men for Holland by way of Dillenburg, where three of the men (Otterbein, Waldschmidt and Wissler) were born. On March 9, 1752 the little company reached the Hague, Holland, where they appeared before the Deputies of the Synods, an Executive Committee on Foreign Missions.

Messrs. Otterbein and Wissler having already been ordained in Nassau, the Deputies gave them their commissions for Pennsylvania on March 13th. The other three candidates were examined on March 11th in the languages (Greek and Hebrew) and in theology. The examination was conducted in Latin, as they were unable to speak Dutch. In this examination, Stoy excelled; Waldschmidt and Frandenfeld passed well. They then subscribed the Dutch Creeds, the Heidelberg Catechism, and the Canons of Dort. On the 14th of March they were set apart by a solemn service for their work in Pennsylvania.

Meanwhile a letter had come in, notifying the Deputies that in the county of Berg there was another candidate, J.C. Rubel, of Wald, who was willing to go. He was accepted to fill the place of the sixth Nassau candidate, who

had withdrawn. Rubel was examined by the Deputies on April 5th, and, being found satisfactory, was also ordained for service in Pennsylvania. Schlatter and his party of six ministers left Amsterdam on April 26, 1752. They arrived at New York on July 27th. There the missionaries were welcomed by Rev. H. M. Muehlenberg, the Patriarch of the Lutheran Church in Pennsylvania, who happened to be in New York at that time. Being invited to meet the new ministers, he greeted them with the words: "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves; be ye therefore wise as serpents and harmless as doves."

After the party had reached Pennsylvania, a special meeting of the Coetus was called on August 10-13, 1752 at Philadelphia, to assign them to their future fields of labor. They were assigned as follows: Mr. Otterbein to Lancaster, Mr. Stoy to Cocalico, Waldschmidt as Schlatter's assistant in Philadelphia, Mr. Rubel to Tulpehocken, Mr. Wissler to Egypt and Heidelberg, and Mr. Frankenfeld to Frederick, Maryland. Later, however, changes became necessary, so that Waldschmidt was sent to Cocalico and Stoy to Tulpehocken, while Rubel stayed in Philadelphia. Waldschmidt was installed in his congregation by Schlatter on October 22, 1752. According to Waldschmidt's own private records his charge consisted at first of "Cocalico, Muddy Creek, White Oaks or Sebastian Reyer's and Seltenreich." As to the identity of these congregations it may be said that Cocalico is now Bethany Church at Ephrata (formerly one mile south of Ephrata); Muddy Creek still bears the same name and is in East Cocalico township; the original White Oaks Church was, according to the statement of Waldschmidt, at Sebastian Reyer's, which is now Zion's Church near Brickerville in Elizabeth township; and Seltenreich's Church is in Earl township, near New Holland. In the Coetal minutes of October, 1752, a petition was presented from the new congregation in White Oaks, while at the Coetus held at Cocalico in October, 1753, it was resolved that "the congregation at White Oaks be combined with the one at Bastian Reyer's and be served by Rev. Waldschmidt." This new congregation at White Oaks is today

represented by the Jerusalem Church at Unionville in Penn township.

When Waldschmidt took charge of these congregations in 1752, their strength, as shown at the first communion services, was as follows:

At Cocalico, 72 communicants; at Reyer's, 60; at Muddy Creek, 80; at Seltenreich, 70. At Muddy Creek he experienced considerable difficulty, as he was opposed by an independent preacher, Frederick Casimir Mueller. At the first meeting of Coetus which Waldschmidt attended at Lancaster, October 18-23, 1752 he declared himself satisfied with all his congregations, except Muddy Creek, where Mueller was preaching to a part of the congregation. Coetus advised him to continue preaching there until the Lord would remove this obstacle out of his way. He reported also that he was receiving ten pounds salary from each of his four congregations, and that he had schoolmasters in all his congregations, except at White Oaks. At the same meeting of Coetus 500 folio Bibles, printed at Basle in 1747, and presented by the Classis of Amsterdam to the Reformed Churches, were distributed to the various ministers, of which Waldschmidt received 24 copies. The Basle Bible, presented in 1755 by Schlatter to the Swamp Church, is still preserved by the congregation. The meeting of Coetus held at Lancaster in October, 1752, was closed with a thanksgiving sermon preached by Waldschmidt from Hebr. 12:14. "Follow peace with all men, and holiness without which no man shall see the Lord:" It was apparently the only sermon he ever preached before the Coetus.

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The year 1753 was one of the most critical in the whole history of the Coetus of Pennsylvania. The organization of the Reformed Church, which had been brought about with so much pains by Schlatter, was threatened with dissolution. The congregations were thrown into disorder. The ministers were divided by party strife. There were two factions, one being led by Schlatter, the other by Weiss. The latter contended for Presbyterianial representation, while Schlatter wished to exclude the elders at least from some of the sessions. Fortunately peace was again restored in the following year, when Schlatter left the Coetus

and his attempted reforms were forgotten. Waldschmidt aided in this struggle with Weiss, as is evident from the fact that he was present at the meeting of Coetus held at Goshenhoppen, the home of Weiss, and at the "Rival Coetus," which met in his charge at Cocalico, October 1-12, 1753. At the latter Waldschmidt reports his salary as 35 pounds from Cocalico, Seltenreich and Muddy Creek. In the same year he is also reported as having purchased a farm of one hundred acres. On this farm his home was located, in which he resided to the end of his days.

In the year 1754 Waldschmidt gave up Muddy Creek, probably through the successful opposition of Mueller, who was still preaching there. His last communion was celebrated by him at Muddy Creek on June 22, 1754. To compensate for this loss a new church was built in West Cocalico township, at Michael Anweg's, where he administered the first communion May 13, 1755. This is the present Swamp Church. But even in this new church Waldschmidt was not permitted to preach for any length, for he records the last communion service there on October 5, 1755.

In 1756 Rev. William Stoy left Tulpehocken to go to Philadelphia. Hence Waldschmidt was asked as the nearest minister to preach at Tulpehocken, and at the same time to supply Reading. Revs. Eleger and Otterbein were appointed to install him in his new congregation on July 6, 1756. At Reading Waldschmidt held the first communion on October 31, 1756, and in the two Tulpehocken congregations in November of the same year. At the end of this year (1756) he gave up Seltenreich, which was transferred to Rieger, perhaps with the view of devoting himself more fully to his new congregations. But he served them only two years when Otterbein became their pastor. In 1757 Waldschmidt began to serve Cacusi (now Hain's Church in Berks county), where he administered the first communion on May 15, 1757. When Rev. Tempelman became blind and was thus disabled from further service, Waldschmidt preached in his congregations for about a year. At Donegal he celebrated the first communion on April 6, 1760,

and in the Gruben Church near Lebanon (now extinct) on May 15, 1760, and at Quitopahilla (now Hill Church near Annville) on May 18, 1760. In May, 1760 the statistics of Waldschmidt were as follows: 50 baptisms for the year 1759, and 15 catechumens, and at Cocalico 120 members. In October, 1760, Rev. Leydich reported to Coetus about Waldschmidt's ministry: His churches were satisfied with his preaching but wished he might be more diligent in house visitation and more careful in his conduct." We cannot tell whether this criticism was really justified or whether it must be put down as captious fault-finding in which some people indulge so eagerly. When in the next year Rev. Stoy acted as Visitor of the churches, he reported that Cocalico and White Oaks were "tolerably well satisfied with Rev. Waldschmidt." The personality of the visitor had evidently much to do with the judgment.

The year 1762 was remarkable in the ministry of Waldschmidt, because in it he gave up all his original congregations, whose pastor he had become in 1752. Thus he celebrated his last communion at Reyer's on September 19, 1762. He was then pastor of Cacusi only and of Reading, where he preached occasionally between 1762-1765.

In 1765 he began to serve several new congregations, first Epler's Church in Berne township, Berks county, where he celebrated the first communion, March 17, 1765. In September of the same year he also took the old Berne Church for about two years, and finally he became once more the pastor of the church at Michael Amweg's, or the Swamp Church, in West Cocalico township, celebrating at the last place the first communion on April 14, 1765. Then he had again with Cacusi four congregations. In January 1767, he began to preach in a new congregation, at Allegheny in Brecknock township, Berks County. These five congregations were more than he could well take care of, hence he dropped Berne in 1766, and Cacusi complained in 1771 of being neglected by him. As a result he resigned Cacusi, which was joined to the Reading charge. The remaining three

congregations, Epler, Allegheny and Swamp (called Little Cocalico in the Coetus Minutes), remained faithful to him to the end of his life.

After 1771 Waldschmidt retired almost completely from the meetings of the Coetus. He had never been prominent in its official labors. He had only once been its secretary, in 1758, but he had never taken a prominent part in its deliberations. After 1771 he never made a statistical report about his ministerial labors, except once in 1785, when he was present and gave the statistics, most likely orally, to the secretary. After 1773 he was never present at the meetings of the Coetus, except twice, in 1782 and in 1785, when they were held near his home in Reading. But in his congregations he remained active almost to the very last. The last communion service recorded in his record took place in Allegheny Church on October 23, 1785. The last baptism was performed by him on September 12, 1786. He died two days later.

One of his sons entered the following statement regarding his father's death into the record:

"God the Almighty called our dear father out of this world to Himself into a blissful eternity, on the fourteenth of September 1786, between nine and ten o'clock in the forenoon. On the fifteenth of September, in the afternoon at two o'clock, his remains were committed to the grave. The Rev. Mr. Boas preached the funeral sermon from Psalm 73: 23-24 "Nevertheless I am continually with thee; thou has holden me by my right hand. Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory." God grant that we all be united with him. Amen."

"The tombstone was erected Oct. 6, 1787. It cost 7.12 shillings."

A circumstance in connection with his tombstone happened about six years later, which was thought very singular, and which is not only traditionally remembered in our neighborhood, but we find a record of it in the church book.

On a Sunday, June 1793, while a large congregation was assembled in the church, listening to the Word of God, and when the winds were quiet, the tombstone of Rev. Waldschmidt suddenly broke off at the top and fell flat upon the tomb. Many saw it and all heard it fall. The wonder in connection with this event was vastly increased in the minds of the people by the fact that Mrs. Waldschmidt, who was demented long before, and had not spoken a word for years, began to speak again with others on that same day.

The tombstone has a German inscription, of which the following is a literal translation:

"God alone be glory!
Here rests in God the Reverend
Johannes Waldschmidt.
Born August 6, 1724.
Ordained for the Ministry 1752.
(Here is the break)
Died September 14, 1786.
Aged 62 years, 5 weeks, 4 days."

John Waldschmidt's Parents, Children and Grandchildren.

John Henry Waldschmidt.

married: Christina Appollonia, daughter of Rev. John Weller, pastor in Wittgenstein, on January 17, 1718, at Dillenburg.

(Children born at Dillenburg)

1. David, born Nov. 8, 1718; baptized Nov. 11, 1718
2. Susanna Elizabeth, born December 23, 1719; baptized Dec. 28, 1719.
3. Jost William, born September 26, 1721, baptized Oct. 2, 1721
4. John Henry, born August 23, 1723; baptized Sept. 2, 1723
5. John, born Aug. 6, 1724; baptized Aug. 12, 1724
6. John Adam, born Sept. 9, 1726, baptized Sept. 16, 1726
7. Anna Catharine, born Dec. 20, 1728; baptized Jan. 3, 1729
8. Anthony, born March 21, 1731; baptized March 29, 1731.

5- John Waldschmidt.

Born at Dillenburg, Aug. 6, 1724

Died at Swamp, Lancaster county, September 14, 1786

Buried at Swamp Church, September 15, 1786

Ordained for the ministry, March 14, 1752

Installed pastor of the Cocalico charge, Oct. 22, 1752

Married: Maria Elisabeth, daughter of Christian Grub, married by Rev.

William Otterbein, May 14, 1754. She was born March 17, 1733, died July 12, 1803.

Children

Children-Rev. John, Marie Eliz. Waldschmidt.

1. John Christian, born March 23, 1755, baptized March 29, 1755
2. Susanna Elizabeth, born April 26, 1756; baptized May 8, 1756.
3. Anna Christina, born July 14, 1759, baptized Aug. 1, 1759
4. Catharine Margaret, born January 10, 1762; baptized Jan. 21, 1762
5. John, born Feb. 12, 1765, baptized March 20, 1765
6. Anna Maria, born April 3, 1767, baptized May 10, 1767
7. William Jacob, born June 30, 1769; baptized Aug. 25, 1769.

Third Generation -

1- John Christian Waldschmidt. (went to Hamilton Co. Ohio)

born March 23, 1755, in Swamp

Died (1814 - buried Camp Dennison, Ohio, Hamilton Co.)

Married: August 15, 1780, Catharine Bollender, daughter of Peter Bollender;
married by Rev. Wm. Boas

Children -

1. Catherine Elizabeth, born Sept. 16, 1781, baptized Oct. 7, 1781.
2. Peter, born June 8, 1783, baptized June 29, 1783
3. Anna Maria, born May 14, 1786; baptized June 5, 1786.

(remaining children listed in History of
Camp Dennison, Ohio, 1796-1956.)

2- Susanna Elizabeth Waldschmidt.

born April 26, 1756

Died

Married: September 3, 1782, John Schneider, a Hessian, from the
principality of Ziegenheim. Rev. Boas married them in
Reading. (Children - names not known)

3. Anna Christina Waldschmidt

born July 14, 1759

Died In Hamilton Co. Ohio (came with John Christian to Camp Dennison)

Henry Keller, Christian's bookkeeper.

Married: August 15, 1780, Henry Keller, son of Martin Keller. Married by Rev. Boas.
(Names children not known) Some descendants live at
Milford, Ohio.

(Notes about Camp Dennison part of history
added by Katherine Rainwater, descendent of Christian)

4. Catharine Margaret Waldschmidt

born January 10, 1762

died

Married: November 21, 1786, Abraham Hassler, son of Abraham Hassler.

1. John, born Aug. 26, 1787; baptized Sept. 30, 1787 by Rev. Boas.
2. William, born October 9, 1791, baptized November 6, 1791 by Rev. Ammann

5- John Waldschmidt (Rev.)

Born February 12, 1765

died March 11, 1829 - according to "Fathers of Reformed Church," John lived on his father's farm.

Married: December 19, 1786, Susanna Hassler, daughter of Abraham Hassler.

She was born Oct. 17, 1765, died Sept. 28, 1813.

children

1. Catherine, born Oct. 27, 1788, baptized Dec. 7, 1788 by Rev. Boas
2. Susanna, born June 13, 1791, baptized June 26 by Rev. Ammann;
died June 26, 1791
3. Christina, born August 30, 1792, baptized Sept. 23, 1792 by Rev. Wilms.
4. Barbara, born July 15, 1795; baptized Aug. 9, 1795, by Rev. Wilms.
5. Elisabeth, born Oct. 12, 1797, baptized Oct. 25, 1797 by Rev. C. Wilms.
6. John, born Nov. 9, 1799, baptized Jan. 11, 1800, by Rev. C. Wilms.
7. Susanna, born June 17, 1805; baptized July 1, 1805 by Rev. C. Helffenstein.
8. William, born Dec. 23, 1809; baptized Feb. 4, 1810 by Rev. Faber.

6- Anna Maria Waldschmidt

born April 3, 1767

Died

Married: December 7, 1790, David Gring, son of Gottfried Gring;
married by Rev. Boas.

1. John, born January 27, 1793, baptized March 10, 1793, by Rev. Boas.
died in infancy.
2. John, born March 15, 1801
3. Daniel, born Feb. 8, 1811. (Two sons were Reverends-according to
"Fathers of Reformed Church")

7 - William Jacob Waldschmidt.

born June 30, 1769

Died

Married March 6, 1787, Barbara Hassler, daughter of Abraham Hassler

children

1. John, born January 13, 1788; baptized March 23, 1788 by Rev. Boas.
 2. Anna Barbara, born March 25, 1790; baptized April 22, 1790; died Apr. 22, 1791.
 3. Elisabeth, born May 16, 1791; baptized May 24, 1791 by Rev. Conrad Ammann
 4. Anna Maria, born May 3, 1794; baptized June 15, 1794 by Rev. Christian Wilms.
 5. William, born Sept. 24, 1796, bapt. Nov. 20, 1796; died in infancy
 6. William, born Aug. 30, 1800; baptized Dec. 14, 1800
- Married: Maria, daughter of Caspar Dill, Feb. 23, 1808

Among some of the living descendants today are (1915) Rev. Ambrose Gring, of Cambridge, Mass, the first missionary of the Reformed Church to Japan; Judge J. B. Hassler, Lancaster, Pa. Judge W.A. Devor, Ashland, Ohio; Gen. John Roller, Harrisonburg, Va. David Trittle, County Commissioner, Chambersburg, Pa. and others in the neighborhood.

When the first Reformed services were held in the present Lancaster County, the county itself was not yet in existence. It was still a part of Chester County, out of which Lancaster county was formed in 1729. The creation of the county was preceded by the erection of Conestoga township, which took place in 1718. It was comprised of all territory west of the Octararo Creek to the Conestoga Creek. Northward it seems to have extended as far as the present limits of the county.

In this district the first large settlement of Europeans was made in 1709. They were Mennonites from Switzerland. During the next decades French Huguenots, Scotch Irish, English Quakers, Welsh Episcopalians and Germans arrived in large numbers. In 1718 the tax list shows about 70 German taxpayers in the township. Their number increased largely during the next ten years so that the Rev. John Philip Boehm could write in 1730: "In this district of Conestoga a large number of German Reformed people live, scattered over an area of more than twenty miles."

The beginnings of Reformed worship in the Conestoga valley are described in a letter which was sent to the Synods of North and South Holland on February 13, 1733. In it the writer makes the following statement:

"The church in Cenastoka had its origin in the year 1725, with a small gathering in private houses here and there, with the reading of a sermon, with singing and prayer, according to the German Reformed Church order, on all Sundays and holidays, but, for want of a minister, without the administration of Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

The reader of these sermons and the leader of the people in these first Reformed services in Lancaster county was John Conrad Tempelman, a pioneer tailor from Heidelberg, Germany, who after the year 1721 had come to Pennsylvania. He must be regarded as the founder of the Reformed Church in Lancaster County.

John Philip Boehm (a layman) ministered to the people of Conestoga for a time.

After Boehm had visited Conestoga hardly a few times, his ministry was interrupted by the arrival of the first ordained minister of the Reformed Church. For Boehm, like Tempelman, was a layman. He had been a schoolmaster in Worms, Germany. The new minister was the Rev. J. George Michael Weiss, who arrived in Philadelphia on Sept. 18, 1727.

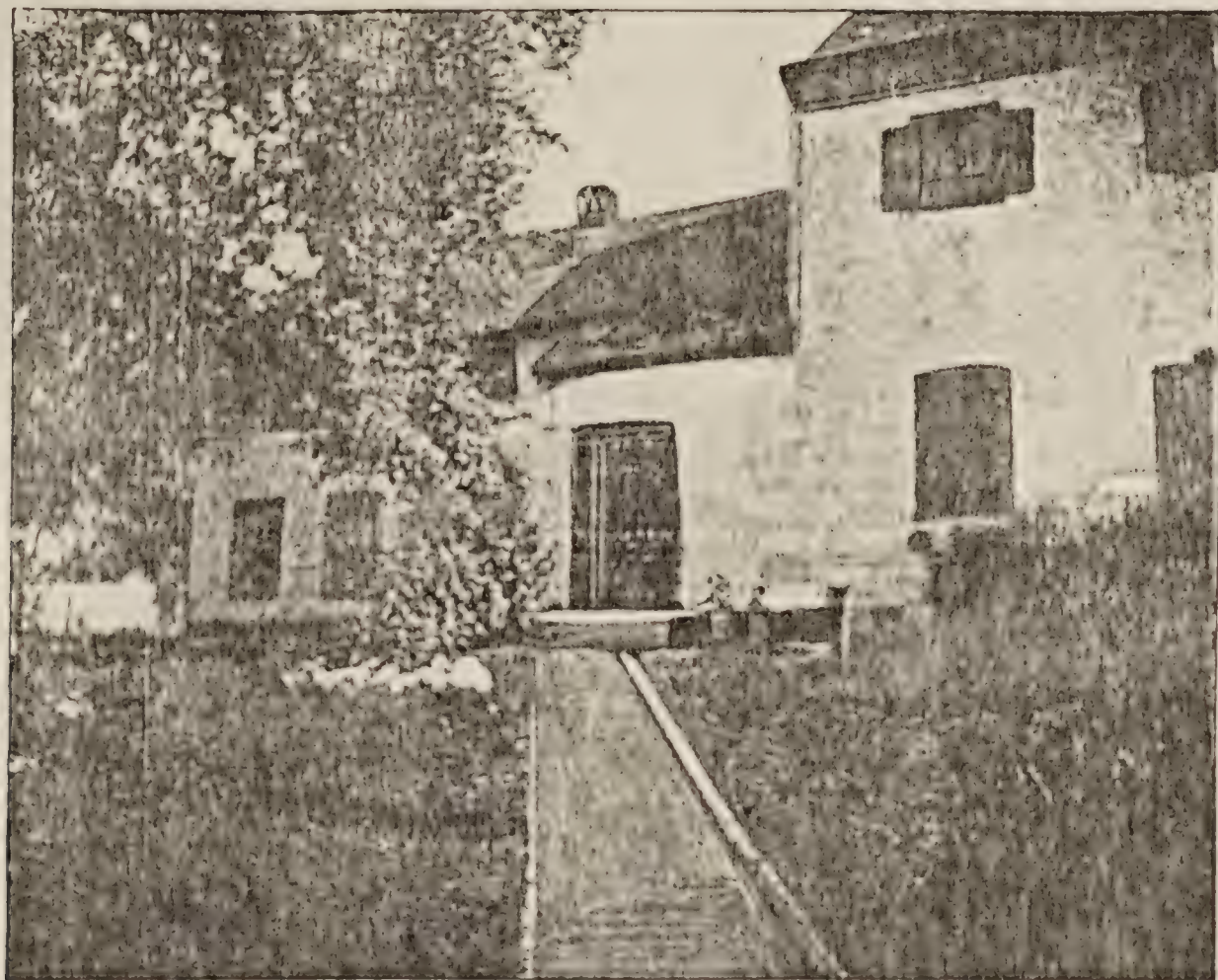
After Boehm, who finally was ordained, he was succeeded by the Rev. John Peter Miller. He made his home at Tulpehocken in Berks Co. He preached until 1733, and in 1734 went over to the Seventh Day Dunkards. In 1743 a Rev. Jacob Lischy came to Pa. under the auspices of the Moravian Church. He wished to organize all German Church under the Moravian Church, but it couldn't be done. However, he preached to about 10 different churches - Berne, Heidelberg, Blue Mountain in Berks, to Swatara and Quitapahilla in Lebanon, to Muddy Creek, Cocalico, Donegal and White Oaks in Lancaster, and to Vincent in Chester Co.

In 1746, Templeton became pastor at Muddy Creek, Conegal, Cocalico, White Oaks, and Seltenreich. Templeton remained until he was relieved by the Rev. John Waldschmidt.

On May 22, 1755, William Penn deeded a tract of land called "Swamp Church Ground" to the Calvinists (Reformed congregation). A lot building was erected as a place of worship in the present old cemetery near where the remains of Waldschmidt are buried.

The ministry of John Waldschmidt was of great importance for these congregations, for he was not only the first well-trained minister whom the congregation had secured, but also the first resident pastor who could minister to the spiritual needs of his people.

In 1765 John Waldschmidt became once more the pastor of the Swamp congregation. In 1765 65 communicants, April 1779, 80 communicants, May 1784 62 communicants, and April 24, 1785, 46 communicants. The second ministry of Waldschmidt extended over 21 years, and ended at his death in Sept. 1786.



HOME OF REV. JOHN WALDSCHMIDT, VINE MONT, PA.

Wy ondergeschreeven bekenne by dese onderteekening dat wy
 zullen houden by ^{alle} de Formulierzen, ~~dat~~ welke onderhouding de ~~Rechts~~
 hier te lande by onderteekening sig verbinden, en dat wy de Subordinatie
 des Oetius van Anglianism onder de' Nederlandsche Synoden met
 hart en moed zullen helpen maintainereen

Phil. Wilh. Otterborn
 Johannes Jacobus Wissler
 Aear: Wilhelm & Rey

Johannes Waldschmidt
 Theodorus Franczenfeldt
 Johannes Casparus Rubel



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